

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets, the ballistic wall comprising:

a pair of metal plates for decelerating bullets, each of the metal plates having keyholes formed therein along an edge thereof so that the keyholes are disposed adjacent a seam formed by ~~plating~~ placing the metal plates adjacent one another;

a facing strip having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the keyholes; and

a plurality of bolts and nuts for attaching the facing strip to the metal plates by extending through the holes in the facing strip and the keyholes in the plates.

2. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, further comprising a backing strip disposed on a side of the metal plates opposite the facing strip and having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the keyholes.

3. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, further comprising a bullet containment frame attached to the facing strip.

4. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 3, further comprising a mounting bracket for connecting the bullet containment frame to the facing strip.

5. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the bolt extends through the mounting bracket, but not through the bullet containment frame.

6. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel, and wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a support post which fits within the channel.

7. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 6, wherein the support post is attached to the mounting bracket by screws.

8. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket forms a generally L-shaped recess for receiving one or more support posts.

9. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 8, wherein the one or more support posts comprises a two-by-four and a two-by-two.

10. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 9, wherein the two-by-four and the two-by-two are fastened to one another by a fastener.

11. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket is formed integrally with the facing strip so that the facing strip has at least one arm extending outwardly from the plates to facilitate attachment of the bullet containment frame.

12. (Original) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets comprising;
two pieces of plate steel;
a facing strip configured to clamp against the two pieces of plate steel and hold the two pieces of plate steel together;
a mounting bracket for holding a bullet containment frame to the facing strip;
a plurality of bolts and nuts, the bolts extending through the mounting bracket and the facing strip; and
a bullet containment frame attached to the mounting bracket, the bullet containment frame being disposed so that the attachment of the bullet containment frame to the mounting bracket is independent of at least some of the bolts used to clamp the facing strip to the at least two pieces of steel plate.

13. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a wood post, and wherein the wood post is fastened to the mounting bracket.

14. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket is made of metal, and wherein the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket by a fastener which has been driven through the mounting bracket.

15. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket has holes formed therein for receiving a fastener to fasten the mounting bracket to the wood post.

16. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the post is unmilled.

17. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket comprises at least one arm extending away from the two pieces of plate steel.

18. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally U-shaped cross-section.

19. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally L-shaped recess for receiving a support post of the bullet containment frame.

20. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 19, wherein the facing strip has an L-shaped cross-section.

21. (Original) A modular ballistic wall comprising;

- a first piece of steel plate;
- a second piece of steel plate disposed adjacent the first piece of steel plate so as to form a seam;
- a facing strip disposed so as to cover the seam on one side of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate;
- a backing strip disposed so as to cover the seam on a side of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate opposite the facing strip;
- wherein at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip has at least one arm extending away from the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate;
- and
- a bullet containment frame attached to the at least one arm.

22. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein the at least one arm is a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip.

23. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip has a generally U-shaped cross-section so as to form a support structure, the generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel.

24. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 23, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a post which is at least partially disposed in the channel.

25. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, wherein the post is a standard, unmilled post.

26. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, further comprising fasteners for holding the post at least partially in the channel and wherein a plurality of holes are formed in the at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip for receiving the fasteners.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a ballistic wall, the method comprising:
selecting a pair of metallic plates and attaching a facing strip to the pair of metallic plates with an attachment; and
selecting unmilled pieces of wood; and
attaching the wood to the facing strip without first forming holes through the wood.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein the method comprises fastening the wood to a mounting bracket that is attached to the facing strip.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein the wood is fastened to the mounting bracket by screws.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein the mounting bracket is attached to the facing strip by bolts which extend through the facing strip and the metal plates.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29, the method further comprises fastening sheets of material to the unmilled wood so as to form a bullet containment frame.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a ballistic wall comprising:

joining a first plate and a second plate together so that a facing strip covers a seam between the plates, the facing strip being attached to the first plate and the second plate by a plurality of bolts each of the bolts having an end disposed on a side of the facing strip opposite the first and second plates, and

attaching a post to the facing strip so as to cover the facing strip and the end of each bolt.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, wherein the post is attached to the facing strip by a mounting bracket.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33, wherein the mounting bracket is attached to the facing strip by the plurality of bolts and wherein the method comprises attaching the post to the mounting bracket independent of the plurality of bolts.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 34, wherein the method comprises attaching the mounting bracket and the post together by screws.

36. (Original) A modular ballistic wall having a pair of metal plates with a facing strip covering the seam and attached to the metal plates by an attachment mechanism, wherein the improvement comprises:

a wood post attached to the facing strip such that the wood post completely covers the attachment mechanism.

37. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 36, wherein the attachment mechanism is a plurality of bolts and wherein all of the bolts are disposed behind the wood post to thereby protect the bolts from being impacted by bullets.

38. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 37, wherein the bolts hold a mounting bracket to the facing strip and the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket.

39. (Original) A modular ballistic wall having metal plates joined together by a facing strip and covered by a bullet containment frame, characterized in that bolts attaching the facing strip to the metal plates do not extend through the bullet containment frame.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a modular bullet assembly, the method comprising;

forming a first piece of steel plate and a second piece of steel plate with a plurality of notches formed therein;

positioning the notches of the respective plates adjacent one another;

placing a facing strip so as to cover the adjacent notches in both plates; and

extending a plurality of fasteners through the facing strip and the notches.

42. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41, wherein the method comprises selecting plates wherein the notches are shaped as key-holes.

43. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41, wherein the method further comprises disposed a backing strip on a side of the plates opposite the facing strip and extending the bolts through the backing strip.

44. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41, further comprising attaching a bullet containment frame to the facing strip by a mounting bracket which is held in place by the fasteners.

45. (Original) A modular wall for containing bullets, the wall comprising:
a plurality of pieces of metal plate disposed end to end so as to form a seam;
a facing strip attached to the plurality of pieces of metal plate, the facing strip having an arm portion extending away from the pieces of metal plate.

46. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 45, wherein the facing strip further comprises a mounting portion extending from the arm being configured for attachment to a bullet containment member.

47. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 46, further comprising a plurality of sheets of material attached to the mounting portion.

48. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 47, wherein the sheets of material are wood.

49. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 46, wherein the facing strip has a generally I-shaped cross-section.

50. (Original) A modular wall for stopping bullets, the wall comprising:
a plurality of steel plates attached together by a facing strip;
a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip; and
a plurality of sheets of material for inhibiting ricocheting of bullets impacting the plates;
wherein the mounting bracket spaces the plurality of sheets from the facing strip.

51. (Original) The modular wall of claim 50, wherein a bullet deceleration medium is disposed between a portion of the mounting bracket and the facing strip.

52. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises gravel.

53. (Original) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises chopped rubber.

54. (New) The modular ballistic wall of claim 1, wherein the seam is defined by the metal plates being spaced apart from one another.

55. (New) The modular ballistic wall of claim 21, wherein the seam is defined by the steel plates being spaced apart from one another.

56. (New) The modular ballistic wall of claim 36, wherein the seam is defined by the metallic plates being spaced apart from one another.

57. (New) The modular ballistic wall of claim 45, wherein the seam is defined by the metallic plates being spaced apart from one another.